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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 KUWAIT 001515

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SUBJECT: TFIZ01: DART SITUATION REPORT 17 APRIL 2003

SUMMARY

1. The DART food team attended a meeting with Coalition forces and WFP on 15 April during which WFP requested that Coalition forces provide security at warehouses, silos, and mills. Coalition forces agreed to try to provide security to the food infrastructure sites and to assist in getting essential fuel and water to the mills. The United Nations Humanitarian Coordinator for Iraq formally endorsed the Rapid Assessment Process (RAP) and approved the Humanitarian Information Center's (HIC) plan to re-establish itself in Iraq. END SUMMARY.

FOOD

2. The DART food team attended a meeting on 15 April with Coalition forces and the World Food Program (WFP). The purpose of the meeting was for WFP to describe its current planning to the military and discuss how the Coalition forces in Basrah could assist.

3. The primary request from WFP was for the Coalition forces to provide security at the Ministry of Trade (MOT) warehouses, silos, and mills. WFP also requested information regarding any pockets of insecurity in Iraq. WFP is starting to test routes from the south, north, and west and wants to be regularly briefed about any areas to avoid. A security incident could stop operations, which could have drastic consequences due to the volume of food that must be moved over the coming weeks. WFP stated that they "don't want to lose life to save life." Coalition forces agreed to pass along relevant information to WFP.

4. Coalition forces also agreed to try to provide security to the food infrastructure sites and to assist in getting power to the mills by bringing fuel for the generators and the water necessary for milling. Coalition forces also agreed to begin paying MOT staff. WFP specifically asked the military not to get involved with locating or organizing the public distribution system food/flour agents and not to talk to any transporters.

5. On 15 April in Basrah, WFP national staff held a meeting with the MOT directors, who agreed that staff for all three warehouses would return to work on 16 April. The MOT directors will survey the condition of the warehouses and determine what materials are needed for resumption of operations. According to WFP, the general condition of all three warehouses is fairly good.

6. Beginning on 17 April, WFP national staff will start meeting with Basra's 1,384 food agents. Meetings will be held with the agents of three ration centers at a time. There are a total of 15 ration centers in Basrah. WFP national staff met with food agents in Khor-Zabyr on 15 April and plan to go to Al Nasariyah on 17 April.

RAPID ASSESSMENT PROCESS

7. The Humanitarian Information Center (HIC) for Iraq is a UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs-facilitated team that is providing a focal point for operational information management. The HIC maintains a website and several offices where information will be assembled, managed, and disseminated. The HIC focuses on three types of information: baseline reference, assessments,

and response. The HIC's role in assessments is to coordinate the content and compile the findings. This is referred to as the Rapid Assessment Process (RAP). The HIC also maintains information related to the organizations, locations, and sectors of humanitarian interventions.

18. The United Nations Humanitarian Coordinator for Iraq, Ramiro Lopez De Silva, formally endorsed the RAP and approved the plan to re-establish the HIC in Iraq. In his letter of endorsement, Mr. De Silva strongly encouraged the participation of the entire humanitarian community, as it is essential to the success of the activity. To make use of the RAP and other information, the HIC will establish four offices in Iraq with a total staff of 38, of which 24 will be national staff. This will allow for direct access to HIC offices throughout the country and help ensure a smooth transition to UNDP as the situation stabilizes. The HIC will continue to have a strong Internet presence at www.agoodplacetostart.org and will be adding three people to the Kuwait City office to meet growing demand.

JONES